

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 13-15, 17-19 and 25 remain pending in the application. The Examiner has noted that no claims have been withdrawn in view of the allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 13-15, 17-19 and 25 have been allowed. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowed subject matter.

In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, but would be allowable if rewritten to include the base claims and any intervening claims and to overcome the 112 rejection.

Claim 5 has been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection to claim 5 as moot.

The Examiner indicated that claim 2 lacked antecedent basis for “the front end of the holding arm”. Claim 2 has been amended to recite

“A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged externally on the vehicle body in the region over which the sliding door is moved when being opened and closed, and the holding arm is arranged in ~~the a~~ rear end region of the sliding door, wherein said rear end region of said sliding door is with the front end of said holding arm directed towards the tail of the vehicle.”

Support may be found in **FIGS. 2, 3 and 19** which show the rear end region of the sliding door **3**, where the holding arm is arranged, directed towards the rear of the vehicle. In addition, paragraph **[0014]** of the published US application recites “[i]n particular the guide rail and the guide device can be arranged externally on or in the vehicle body in the region over which the sliding door is moved when it is opened and closed. The holding arm for the sliding door is then arranged in the rear end region of the sliding door, that is to say the end region which is towards the tail of the vehicle.” Also see original claim 2 which recited “A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged externally on the vehicle body in the region over which the sliding door is moved when being opened and closed, and the holding arm

is arranged in the rear end region of the sliding door which is directed towards the tail of the vehicle.” Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 5 appears incorrect as no support is found for the feature of two pivotally connected portions of the holding arm as well as for the use of the word “or”. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

The drawings were objected to on the grounds that “the front end of the holding arm directed towards the tail of the vehicle” (claim 2) and towards the front of the vehicle (claim 3), “the two arm portions connected together pivotably about a vertical axis” (claim 5) and the angle to about 180° (claim 15) must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s).

Claim 2 has been amended as noted above to address this objection and the feature of the “said rear end region of said sliding door directed towards the tail of the vehicle” is shown in **FIGS. 2, 3 and 19** where the rear end (left hand side) of the door **3** is directed towards the tail of the vehicle. This may be discerned as **FIG. 1** of the application is a perspective view of the door closed and **FIG. 4** is a perspective view with the door open. This would indicate that **FIGS. 1 and 4** are views of the right-hand side of the vehicle (passenger side in the U.S. and Europe) and that the left-hand side of the **FIGS.** is directed towards the rear or tail of the vehicle (otherwise when the door is opened it would interfere with/override the front door). Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

Regarding the objection to claim 3, paragraph [0104] of the published U.S. application recites “[i]n the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 25 through 30**, the guide rail **33** for the guide element **2** of the sliding door **3** is arranged in the lower region of the vehicle body along the door opening and the holding arm **34** is arranged at the front end region of the sliding door **3**, which is directed towards the front of the vehicle.” Claim 3 has been amended to be consistent with that support as follows:

“A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged on or in the lower region of the vehicle body along the door opening and the holding arm is arranged at ~~the~~ a front end region of the sliding door, ~~the said front end region of said holding arm~~ directed towards the front of the vehicle.”

Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

Claim 4 has been similarly amended. See paragraph [0015] of the application which recites “[o]n the other hand the guide rail and the guide device can also be arranged on or in the lower or upper region of the vehicle body along the door opening, in which case the holding arm is then arranged at the front end region of the sliding door, that is to say the end region which is directed towards the front of the vehicle. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

Finally, it is noted that claim 15 as amended recites “A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the deflection of the first run of the line receiving means at the end of the guide rail is effected at an angle with the guide rail of about 90° to about 180°.

Attention is first directed to paragraph 0093 of the published application, which recites that deflection of the first run of the line receiving means 15 at the end of the guide rail...is effected in this case through about 90° (FIG. 1), but it can also be through about 180° (FIG. 27). Accordingly, no new matter has been entered, the features of dependent claim 15 are illustrated in the specification, and it is believed that the outstanding rejection to dependent claim 15 has been rendered moot.

As the present amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered at this time and a formal notice of allowance be issued upon review thereof..

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

In the event there are any fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

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